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APR 05 2007

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A casting sand heating apparatus, comprising a furnace body, sand inlet, smoke discharge and dust removing port, hearth, combustion mouth and sand outlet, wherein the sand inlet is arranged at the top of the furnace body, the combustion mouth is arranged in the lower part of the furnace body, the sand outlet is arranged at the bottom of the furnace body and near the side of the combustion mouth, [[and]] a multi-layer heat exchange apparatus is arranged crisscrossly in the middle part of the furnace body, and wherein a dust removing duct is connected to the smoke discharge and the dust removing port, and a cold air duct is connected to the dust removing duct.

2. (Original) The casting sand heating apparatus of claim 1, wherein the multi-layer heat exchange apparatus is comprised of multi-layer crisscrossly arranged laths.

3. (Original) The casting sand heating apparatus of claim 1, wherein the multi-layer heat exchange apparatus is comprised of multi-layer partitions with sieve holes.

4. (Previously Presented) The casting sand heating apparatus of claim 1, wherein the multi-layer heat exchange apparatus is comprised of multi-layer crisscrossly arranged laths of casting refractory material.

5. (Previously Presented) The casting sand heating apparatus of claim 1, wherein a sand inlet guidance apparatus is installed on the sand inlet.

6. (Cancelled).

7. (Cancelled).

8. (Currently Amended) The casting sand heating apparatus of claim [[7]] 1, wherein a smoke return duct is installed at the outside wall of the furnace body, one end of the duct is connected to the dust removing duct, the other end is connected to the upper side of the combustion mouth on the wall of the furnace, and a smoke circulating power apparatus is installed in the smoke return duct.

9. (Original) The casting sand heating apparatus of claim 8, wherein a check door is arranged on the lower part or at the bottom of the furnace body.

10. (Previously Presented) The casting sand heating apparatus of claim 2, wherein a sand inlet guidance apparatus is installed on the sand inlet.

11. (Previously Presented) The casting sand heating apparatus of claim 3, wherein a sand inlet guidance apparatus is installed on the sand inlet.

12. (Previously Presented) The casting sand heating apparatus of claim 4, wherein a sand inlet guidance apparatus is installed on the sand inlet.